Naval Officers are permitted to seek premature retirement on the following grounds :—

(i) Supersession
(ii) Compassionate reasons
(iii) Permanent Low Medical Category
(iv) Absorption in the Public Sector/Re-settlement in civil life within a period of 2 years from the date of normal retirement.

AH cases of premature retirement are approved by the Govt, on the recommendations of the Chief of Naval Staff subject to their fulfilling the laid down guidelines/ criteria and after keeping the Navy's man-power requirements in mind.

The number of officers of the ranks of Commodores/Captains and Commanders who proceeded on premature retirement during 1989-90 and 1990-91 is as follows :—

Year	Commodores/ Captains	Commanders
1989-90	9	33
1990-91	19	98

News Item 'Chinese Naval Modernisation Plan'

1188. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'The Observer of Business and Politics" New Delhi dated the 13th April, 1992 captioned "Chinese naval modernisation plan alarm defence experts" ; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto particularly in the context of being a major determinant in India's security calculas, according to the Indian Defence analysis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRT S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government remain alert to an developments that have a bearing on the national security, including the modernisation programmes of the Defence forces of neighbouring countries. The Indian Navy remain prepared to meet threats to India's security and her maritime interests.

Corruption charges against Chairman-cum-Managing Director of BEML

1189. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chair-man-cum-Managing Director of Bharat Earth Movers Limited Has acquired wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income, in awarding contracts to known persons ignoring the interests of the Public Exchequer ;

(b) whether Government propose to hold an enquiry by CBI into all the purchases made and contracts awarded ; and.

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER <>F_ STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL OAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

1190. *[Transferred to the Ufh May,* 1992]

रोहतांग दर्रे पर सुरंग

1191. श्री महेश्वरी सिंह : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में रोहतांग दर्रे पर एक सुरंग का निर्माण-कार्य शुरु हो गया है;